



Archbishop Alfred Hughes, S.T.D.  
Archdiocese of New Orleans  
7887 Wilmsley Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70125

Dear Archbishop Hughes,

We at Call To Action USA applaud you for the issuance of your very commendable pastoral letter, "*Made in the Image and Likeness of God.*" This letter represents, in our opinion, an historic milestone in and for the U.S. Catholic Church.

As a national Catholic organization of approximately 25,000 members, Call To Action is a community of believers rooted in the "call to action" of Pope Paul VI and the then National Conference of Catholic Bishops 30 years ago to bring about "liberty and justice for all." The NCCB, under the presiding leadership of Cardinal John Dearden, convened the historic first Call To Action conference in 1976, involving a broad cross section of laity, religious, priests and bishops representing the broader Catholic community, to formulate resolutions and recommendations for the Church in the United States.

In his address to that conference in October of 1976, Cardinal Dearden reminded the 2,500 assembled participants of their purpose for being there: "Our central preoccupation here should be how we can more authentically as a Christian community live our faith in God and His Son, bearing witness to our confidence in Him and our awareness of His image in every person, and, together as a church and individually as workers, citizens and Church members, serve the cause of justice and human development." It was no surprise, then, that one of the principal recommendations and resolutions coming out of that Detroit conference was to end racism in the Church and in our country. To that end, CTA now has in place an Antiracism Initiative and a trained antiracism team. We have a growing understanding of the history of this country with regard to the establishment of institutional racism and its meaning in terms of power and privilege for some at the expense of others. Thus, you may well imagine our sense of solidarity with you and our celebration on reading "*Made in the Image and Likeness of God.*" Your pastoral letter indeed bears witness to "our awareness of His image in every person," as was stated by Cardinal Dearden 30 years ago.

Archbishop, we appreciate and commend you for the depth and range of your pastoral in detailing historical and social factors that have contributed to racism in your archdiocese and in this country. We also commend the action plan that you have outlined to begin to remedy the inequities of the past and to provide justice and compassion beginning now. CTA has members and leaders who are from your area and elsewhere who stand anxious and ready to assist you in any way possible. We are particularly grateful and happy that our friends at St. Augustine parish of New Orleans will be able to maintain their parish community and grow even more vibrant in the worship and service of our God with your support. Please do not hesitate to call on us if or whenever you feel that we may help. You may reach us through Mr. Tom Honoré, our board Vice President. He is a native of Baton Rouge, who is quite familiar with the church situation in New Orleans and has been in communication with friends at St. Augustine's and elsewhere in the diocese.

In Christ's peace,

Patty Hawk and Paul Scarbrough, Call To Action/USA National Board Co-Presidents

CC: St. Augustine's Parish Council  
Prof. Bill Quigley, Loyola New Orleans

**Lay people, religious and clergy working together to foster peace, justice and love in our world, our church and ourselves in the spirit of Vatican II and the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Call To Action**